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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/724,750	12/02/2003	Akira Hamamatsu	520.43302PX1	2088

20457 7590 09/16/2005

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EXAMINER

STAFIRA, MICHAEL PATRICK

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2877

DATE MAILED: 09/16/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/724,750

Applicant(s)

HAMAMATSU ET AL.

Examiner

Michael P. Stafira

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 02 December 2003 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 12/2/03.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

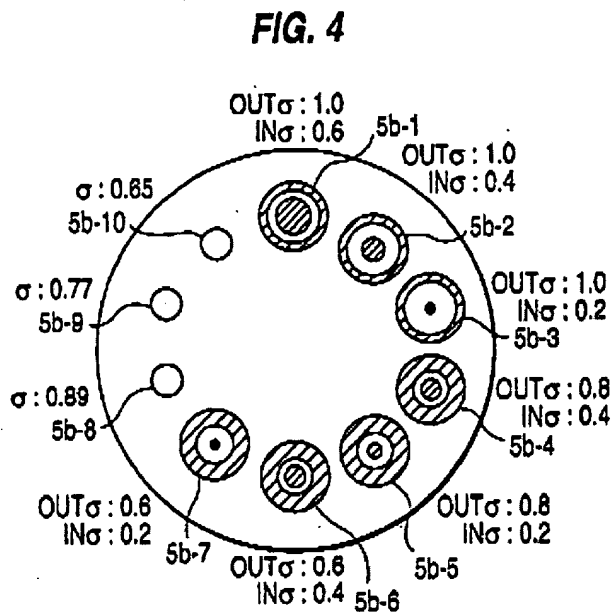
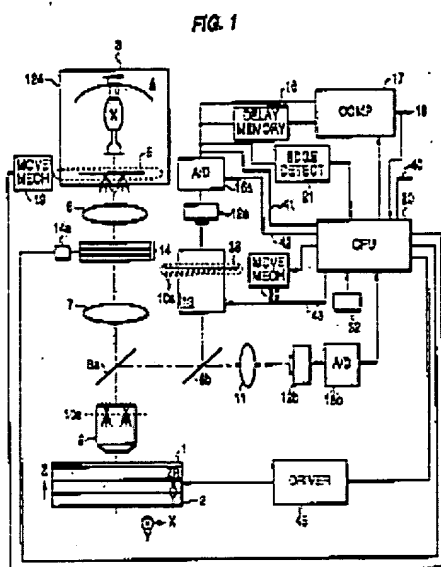
A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Maeda et al. ('498).

Claim 1

Maeda et al. ('498) discloses illuminating light (Fig. 1, Ref. 3) to an inspection object formed circuit pattern on surface (Fig. 1, Ref. 1); detecting an image (Fig. 1, Ref. 12a) signal of transmission light by shielding selectively diffraction light pattern (Fig. 1, Ref. 10a) generated from said circuit pattern in lights reflected from the surface of said inspection object (Col. 8, lines 12-33); and detecting the defects existing on the surface of the inspection object by processing the detected image signal (Col. 7, lines 30-50); wherein said selective shielding of said diffraction light pattern in said detecting step is performed by a substrate a shielding plate of cylindrical shape or plate shape (See Fig. 4).



Claim 2

Maeda et al. ('498) further discloses the inspection object is formed a plurality of chips being repeated the circuit pattern on the surface, and said selective shielding of the diffraction light pattern is performed according to change of the diffraction pattern for every area in one chip being obtained by detecting diffraction light patterns for one chip (Col. 8-9, lines 59-3; Col. 9-10, lines 60-8).

Claim 3

Maeda et al. ('498) discloses an illumination optical (Fig. 1, Ref. 3) system which illuminates light to an inspection object (Fig. 1, Ref. 1) formed circuit pattern on surface; a detection optical system (Fig. 1, Ref. 12a) which detects light transmitted a shielding unit (Fig. 1, Ref. 10a) in lights reflected from said inspection object and converts the detected light into an image signal; the shielding unit (Fig. 1, Ref. 10a) which is provided in said detection optical system to selectively shield diffracted light pattern coming from circuit pattern existing on the

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inspection object (Col. 8, lines 12-33); and a processing system which detects the defects by processing the image signal detected by said detection optical system (Col. 7, lines 30-50).

Claim 4

The reference of Maeda et al. ('498) further discloses the shielding unit comprises a shielding plate of cylindrical shape or plate shape (See Fig. 4).

Claim 5

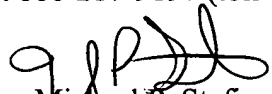
Maeda et al. ('498) further discloses the inspection object is formed a plurality of chips being repeated the circuit pattern on the surface, and said shielding unit comprises so as to shield selectively the diffraction light pattern in accordance with change information of the diffraction pattern for every area in one chip in diffraction light patterns for one chip (Col. 8-9, lines 59-3; Col. 9-10, lines 60-8).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael P. Stafira whose telephone number is 571-272-2430. The examiner can normally be reached on 4/10 Schedule Mon.-Thurs..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gregory Toatley can be reached on 571-272-2800 ext. 77. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Michael P. Stafira
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2877

September 14, 2005